

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-18 have been rejected. Claims 1, 7-11, and 18 have been amended. Claim 19 has been newly added to further define the present invention. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Montgomery et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,781,620). It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-18 are allowable over the art of record for the reasons set forth below.

Claims 1, 10, and 18 include features that are neither disclosed nor suggested by the art of record, namely, as represented by claim 1:

receiving an incoming call request from the calling party;
determining a carrier based on the incoming call request and a subscriber-generated routing table comprising a set of routing instructions comprising a plurality of carriers and associated destination prefixes; and
routing the call to the called party using the carrier. (emphasis added)

The present invention as recited in claim 1 is directed to routing a call from a calling party to a called party using a carrier that is based on the incoming call request and a subscriber-generated routing table. The subscriber-generated routing table comprises routing instructions which include carriers and destination prefixes.

Montgomery et al., on the other hand, neither discloses nor suggests a subscriber-generated routing table. The routing information of Montgomery et al. is entered by ISCP database entry personnel at a terminal (e.g., the SCE 134 in Figure 1) residing at the ISCP 126 (col. 6, lines 55-65). The subscriber cannot access, program, or change the routing information that is stored for use in subsequent call routing.

Claims 10 and 18 recite similar features as those set forth above with respect to claim 1. Based on the foregoing, claims 1, 10, and 18 and all claims dependent therefrom, including claims 2-9 and 11-17, should not be rejected as being anticipated by Montgomery et al. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) is respectfully requested.

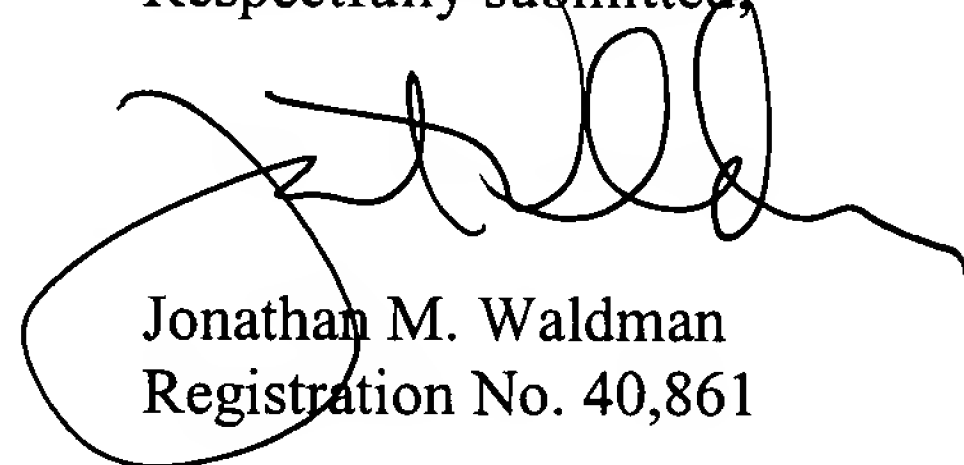
Claim 19 has been newly added to include the feature of the subscriber-generated routing table being generated via web-based tools. Basis for this claim is found in the application, as originally filed, at page 6, lines 4-9. No new matter has been added.

Allowance of claim 19 is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that the above-identified application is in condition for allowance. Early notification to this effect is respectfully requested.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."

Respectfully submitted,



Jonathan M. Waldman
Registration No. 40,861

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WOODCOCK WASHBURN LLP
One Liberty Place - 46th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19103
(215) 568-3100

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1, 7-11, and 18 have been amended, and claim 19 has been newly added, as follows.

1. (Once Amended) A method for routing a call from a calling party to a called party, comprising:
 - receiving an incoming call request from the calling party;
 - determining a carrier based on the incoming call request and a subscriber-generated routing table comprising a set of routing instructions comprising a plurality of carriers and associated destination prefixes; and
 - routing the call to the called party using the carrier.
7. (Once Amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising receiving the [set of routing instructions] subscriber-generated routing table from the calling party prior to receiving the incoming call request from the calling party.
8. (Once Amended) The method according to claim 7, wherein receiving the [set of routing instructions] subscriber-generated routing table comprises receiving a plurality of carriers with associated destination prefixes via web-based tools.
9. (Once Amended) The method according to claim 7, wherein receiving the [set of routing instructions] subscriber-generated routing table comprises receiving at least one of associated times of day and associated days of week via web-based tools.
10. (Once Amended) A system for routing a call from a calling party to a called party using a carrier within a telecommunications network, comprising:
 - a central office for receiving an incoming call request comprising a destination prefix from the calling party;
 - a storage device for storing a subscriber-generated routing table comprising a set of routing instructions comprising a plurality of carriers and associated destination prefixes; and

a controller for determining the carrier based on the destination prefix and the [set of routing instructions] subscriber-generated routing table, and for routing the call to the called party using the carrier.

11. (Once Amended) The system according to claim 10, further comprising web-based tools for allowing subscriber-generation of the [a] routing table [comprising the set of routing instructions].

18. (Once Amended) A routing table for use in determining a carrier to be used in routing a call from a calling party to a called party comprising a plurality of carriers and associated destination prefixes, days of week, and times of day, wherein the routing table is subscriber-generated and accessed responsive to an incoming call request generated by the calling party to determine the carrier to be used in routing the call.

Claim 19 has been newly added.

19. (Newly Added) The routing table according to claim 18, wherein the subscriber-generated routing table is generated via web-based tools.